

REDUCTION OF VISA FEES FOR NONIMMIGRANTS

*Exchange of notes at Paris June 3 and 18, 1932, supplementing agreement of April 19 and May 8 and 13, 1929*¹

Entered into force June 18, 1932

*Terminated January 15, 1938, by agreement of January 12 and 14, 1938*²

Department of State files

The American Embassy to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

No. 1788

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and has the honor to refer to the proposed visit, at the invitation of the American Legion, of approximately 500 French war veterans to the United States next September.

The American Government, remembering the courtesies extended to the members of the American Legion at the time of their visit to France in 1927 in the matter of passport facilities and the waiver of the usual visa fee, desires to reciprocate and grant French war veterans similar courtesies in so far as it is able to do so under the laws and regulations at present in force.

Under the present laws in force in the United States it will not be possible to waive visa requirements altogether for the French war veterans visiting the United States, nor is there any provision in the existing agreement with France, entered into in May, 1929, under which the visa fee might be reduced below the amount applicable to all French citizens. However, under the Act of February 25, 1925,³ the Department of State was authorized to conclude reciprocal agreements for the reduction or waiver of visa fees for non-immigrants. Under this authorization, and since the French war veterans temporarily visiting the United States fall under the classification of non-immigrants, it is proposed to conclude an additional visa agreement supplementary to the agreement entered into in May, 1929, providing for the waiver of visa fees for members of veterans organizations proceeding abroad as members of delegations.

If the French Government would be willing to conclude such an agreement to cover the members of veterans organizations proceeding abroad as

¹ *Ante*, p. 974.

² EAS 125, *post*, p. 1026.

³ 43 Stat. 976.

members of delegations, the American Government would be glad to expedite the making of the necessary arrangements in order that the French war veterans visiting the United States next September may benefit by the facilities provided.

The American Government would therefore be willing to agree to the following provision supplementing the present visa agreement as set forth in the Embassy's note No. 8047 of April 19, 1929, and the Ministry's reply of May 8, 1929:

No visa fees shall be collected from American or French members of delegations representing war veterans organizations temporarily visiting the United States or France.

Should this provision meet with the approval of the French Government, it is proposed to put it into effect by a simple exchange of notes.

In regard to the question of waiving passport requirements, the laws of the United States require aliens visiting the United States temporarily to be in possession of passports or official documents in the nature of passports, which they may present as evidence of their ability to return to their own or some other country at the end of their temporary stay. In view of this provision it would be satisfactory if the French war veterans, in the absence of a regular passport, should each have a document in the nature of a passport issued or indorsed by the French Government, which would be valid for the return of the war veterans to France.

PARIS, June 3, 1932

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the American Embassy

PARIS, June 18, 1932

In reply to a note dated June 3, 1932, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has the honor to inform the Embassy of the United States of America that it accepts the Embassy's proposal that the passport and visa agreement concluded by an exchange of notes dated respectively April 19 and May 8, 1929, be supplemented by the addition of the following provision:

No visa fees shall be collected from American or French members of delegations representing war veterans organizations temporarily visiting the United States or France.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs considers that agreement on this supplementary provision has been concluded through the exchange of the above mentioned note from the Embassy of the United States, dated June 3, 1932, and of the present reply. The Ministry will promptly send instructions to the French Embassy and Consulates in America to put the new agreement into immediate effect.